



News Release

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UDOH Appoints Director of CHIP and Primary Care Network

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) is pleased to announce the appointment of Michael Hales as Director of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Primary Care Network (PCN) in the Office of Children’s Insurance and Access Initiatives. This position was previously held by Chad Westover, who left the UDOH in July for a job in the private health insurance industry.

“Providing access to health care is a top priority for the Utah Department of Health and it is my pleasure to appoint such an accomplished individual to lead these important programs,” says Scott Williams, M.D, Executive Director, UDOH.

According to the 2001 UDOH Health Status Survey, 8.7 percent of Utah’s population lacks health insurance coverage. “CHIP and PCN currently cover more than 48,000 people who would have otherwise gone uninsured. However, there is still work to be done to cover the 199,000 Utahns who lack health insurance while managing our resources efficiently,” says Hales.

Hales served previously as Associate Actuary for CHIP and PCN. He has worked for three years as a consultant for healthcare and financial service companies. Hales has prior experience in public health and health care access, having spent five years at the UDOH in the Division of Health Care Financing (DHCF). In addition, Hales will lend his expertise and experience to DHCF as Assistant Director. Hales’ received a Master of Public Administration degree from Harvard University and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Brigham Young University.

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Providing access to affordable quality health care is part of the mission of the UDOH. DHCF and The Office of Children's Insurance and Access Initiatives are components of the UDOH that work to do this. DHCF administers Medicaid while The Office of Children's Insurance and Access Initiatives houses CHIP, the Primary Care Network, and PCN Covered at Work. More information about these programs can be obtained at www.health.utah.gov

Editorial Note: A photo of Mike Hales is available by e-mail upon request.

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The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.